

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT (PARA 12 IMI 12)

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SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

REF: STATE 157953, BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH AMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE B. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE B, 29 , WAS A FARMER IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE. AFTER
THE KHMER ROUGE TAKEOVER, HE CONTINUED TO WORK AS A FARMER IN
THE SAME PLACE. HE ARRIVED IN THAILAND MAY 19, 1978. HIS ACCOUNT
FOLLOWS:

3. QTE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. IN 1975, I
ATE WITH MY FAMILY. FROM THE START OF 1976, I ATE WITH MY
GROUP IN THE COLLECTIVE FOR FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS. AFTER THAT, THE
ENTIRE COLLEITIVE OF 330 PERSONS ATE TOGETHER.

4. QTE THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE IN THE AMOUNT OF FOOD WE
GOT SINCE 1975. WE ATE PORRIDGE, TWO TIMES A DAY. WE HAD 8 TINS
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(2 KILOS) OF RICE, MADE IN PORRIDGE, FOR TEN PERSONS. THE PORRIDGE
USUALLY HAD BANANA LEAVES MIXED IN. THERE WERE TWO OR THREE
PERSONS WHO CAUGHT FISH FOR THE WHOLE COLLECTIVE.

5. QTE CROP YIELDS DECREASED EACH YEAR SINCE 1975. I DON'T
KNOW WHY. WE WORKED, WORKED, WORKED, BUT THE RESULTS WERE NOT
BETTER BUT WORSE. PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE THERE ARE FEWER AND

FEWER PEOPLE, WHO HAVE LESS AND LESS STRENGTH.

6. QTE THERE WERE NO MEDICINES, EXCEPT THE CONCOCTIONS MADE BY THE KHMER ROUGE OF ROOTS AND HERBS. OF TEN PATIENTS WHO BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL, FIVE DIED.

7. QTE OF THE 330 PEOPLE IN THE COLLECTIVE AT FIRST, THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 100 LEFT IN MAY 1978. ALMOST ALL OF THE REMAINING PERSONS ARE WOMEN. THE REST WERE KILLED OR ESCAPED TO THAILAND.

8. QTE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE. THE VILLAGE WAS HEADED BY A ADMINISTRATOR, FROM ANGKA. MY VILLAGE WAS DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS. I NEVER SAW ANY KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS, BUT THERE WERE SPIES (SCHLOP) IN THE VILLAGE.

9. QTE FOR MINOR MISTAKES, SUCH AS GOING TO WORK LATE, YOU WERE SCOLDED AND HIT THE FIRST TIME. THE THIRD TIME, YOU WERE EXECUTED. FOR A SERIOUS MISTAKE YOU WERE KILLED THE FIRST TIME. SERIOUS MISTAKES WERE TALK AGAINST THE KHMER ROUGE REGIME, SUCH REMARKS AS, "I DON'T LIKE THE KHMER ROUGE REGIME" "I DON'T LIKE TO WORK SO HARD" "I WANT TO EAT MORE." ALSO WHEN THE KHMER ROUGE DISCOVERED THAT YOU WERE A SOLDIER OR GOVERNMENT WORKER OF THE FORMER REGIME, YOU WERE ARRESTED AND KILLED IMMEDIATELY.

10. QTE YOU COULD NOT MAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WORKING OR LIVING CONDITIONS. NO ONE DARED TO SPEAK AT ALL. NO ONE DARED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO RISE UP AGAINST THE SYSTEM. YOU NEVER KNEW WHERE THE KHMER ROUGE WERE. EVERY WEEK OR SO I SAW A HANDFUL OF KHMER ROUGE PASS THROUGH THE VILLAGE. WE WERE TOLD THAT IF ANY VILLAGER DARED TO ATTACK THE KHMER ROUGE, ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE WOULD BE KILLED. I HEARD THAT THIS HAPPENED IN ONE OR TWO OTHER VILLAGES. ONE OF THEM WAS PHUM THMEI, THMAR POUK DISTRICT, BATTAMBANG.

11. QTE EXECUTIONS. I SAW ONE FORMER GKR SOLDIER KILLED. I ALSO SAW TWO OR THREE OTHERS ARRESTED AND TAKEN AWAY. THEY "DISAPPEARED."

12. QTE I HEARD FROM OTHER VILLAGERS, DURING JOINT WORK PROJECTS, THAT FAR AWAY FROM THEIR VILLAGE IN CHAMKA KO MILITARY BASE, BATTAMBANG, MANY FORMER SOLDIERS WERE KILLED RIGHT AFTER THE KHMER ROUGE TAKEOVER. I SAW MANY HUMAN BONES IN A LAKE. I GUESS THAT MAYBE OVER 1,000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, AT FIRST, THE KHMER ROUGE USED GUNS TO KILL THE FORMER SOLDIERS, GOVERNMENT WORKERS, STUDENTS, BUT LATER, AFTER 1975, THEY USED POLES TO BEAT PEOPLE TO DEATH.

13. QTE HUMAN, CIVIL, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HUMAN, CIVIL OR POLITICAL RIGHTS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

YOU CANNOT READ , WRITE, TALK, SUGGEST. PEOPLE WANT TO HAVE
FREEEOM MOST IN MY VILLAGE. I ESCAPED BECAUSE I COULD NOT LIVE
UNDER THE KHMER ROUGE. I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH TO EAT AND THERE WAS
NO MEDICINE.

14. QTE ONE CAMBODIAN WHO CAME WITH ME HAD DECIDED TO ESCAPE
BECAUSE THE KHMER ROUGE KILLED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER-IN-LAW.
NOW, IF YOU HAVE ONE RELATIVE WHO WAS A GKR SOLDIER, THEY KILL
THE WHOLE FAMILY. END QTE.
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